The Uses of a Town Cross.—Towns are places where travellers rest,—all sure are travellers, or may be, or should be. It would add much to general accommodation, if in the centre of our provincial towns were to be a pedestal or monument, whereon should appear various local information; on each of four faces the distances to other towns, as is done at Dereham, in Norfolk; also the seasons of travelling, whether by coach or railway; the time of arrival and departure, and the fares.—*Bury and Suffolk Herald.*

The new Royal Academician, elected in place of Mr. Thomson, is Mr. J. P. Knight.

Current Prices of Metals.

London, February 16, 1844.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Spelter—Foreign, tun	0	0	0 to	22	0	0
" For delivery	0	0	0—	21	0	0
Zinc—English sheet ..	0	0	0—30		0	0
Quicksilver ..... per lb.				0	4	6
Iron—English bar, &c. per ton				5	0	0
" Nail rods.....	0	0	0—	6	0	0
" Hoops	7	5	0—	7	10	0
" Sheets	0	0	0—	8	0	0
" Cargo in Wales	0	0	0—	4	5	0
" Pig, No. 1, Wales	0	0	0—	3	5	0
" " No. 1, Clyde	0	0	0—	2	2	0
" For., Swedish ..	10	0	0—10		5	0
" Russian, crwn				16	10	0
" " per				—		
" " Gourieff.....				—		
" " Archangel.....				—		
Steel—Swedish keg..... p. ton				18	5	0
" " Faggot	0	0	0	19	0	0
Copper—English sheathing..lb...				0	0	9½
" Old..... per lb.				0	0	8½
" Cake, per ton	0	0	0—88		0	0
" Tile.....	0	0	0—86		0	0
" S. American	0	0	0—77		0	0
Tin—English, blocks, &c. cwt.				3	10	0
" " bars...	0	0	0—	3	12	0
" Foreign, Banca..	0	0	0—	3	6	0
" " Straits..	0	0	0—	3	5	0
" " Peruvian	0	0	0—	3	0	0
Tin plates, No. 1C. p. box	1	4	0—	1	8	0
" " No. 1X.....	1	10	0—	1	14	0
" wasters 3s. per box less						
Lead—Sheet milled .....p. ton				17	15	0
" Shot, patent....0	0	0—	19	15	0	
" Red.....				21	10	0
" White.....				23	10	0
Pig-Lead—English....0	0	0—16		15	0	
" Spanish....0	0	0—16		10	0	
" American..0	0	0		—		

The Iron Trade.—To gratify our readers, we give them the particulars of the expenses incurred in producing one ton of No. 2 bar-iron (say merchant bars) from the ore, which, we trust, will be found to approximate as near to truth as is necessary to form an idea:—

	£	s.	d.
Coal, the price of which varies according to circumstances from 3s. 6d. to 4s. per ton—Quantity required to make one ton of bar iron through all its processes, is about six tons—at, say 3s. 9d. per ton..	1	2	6
Quantity of ironstone required to produce one ton of bar-iron is about three and a half tons, which, ready for being put into the blast-furnace, cannot cost less than 11s. per ton	1	18	6
Limestone—at least.....	0	2	6
The amount paid in wages to the fireman, together with the expenses for oils, tallows, and all other necessaries, cannot be rated at less than	1	15	0
Expenses incurred in transit to the nearest seaport varies according to distance, but, with agents' salaries, poor-rate, rent, and other incidental expenses, cannot be rated at less, per ton, than	0	5	0
Making a total of	£5	3	6
Present price of bar-iron at Cardiff or Newport—say	4	0	0
Leaving the manufacturer at a loss, on every ton made, of.....	£1	3	6

—*Swansea Journal.*

The market for metals has at length improved to some degree, but the great article of British iron does not yet participate in the advance, although an attempt has been made to obtain 4*l.* 5s. per ton for bars in Wales. British copper is in greater demand; and a public sale of eighty-four slabs of Banca tin produced 66s. per cwt. The price of spelter is 21*l.* 10s. for delivery; and Spanish lead is in small supply, and readily saleable at 16*l.* 10s. per ton.—*Midland Counties Herald.*

February 23.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Spelter—Foreign, ton	22	6	0 to	22	10	0
" For delivery	0	0	0—21		0	0
Zinc—English sheet ..	0	0	0—30		0	0
Quicksilver..... per lb.				0	4	6
Iron—English bar, &c. per ton				6	0	0
" Nail rods	0	0	0—	6	0	0
" Hoops	7	5	0—	7	10	0
" Sheets	0	0	0—	8	0	0
" Cargo in Wales	0	0	0—	4	6	0
" Pig, No. 1, Wales	0	0	0—	3	5	0
" No. 1, Clyde	0	0	0—	2	5	0
" For Swedish ..	10	5	0—10		10	0
" Russian, crwn.....				16	10	0
" " per				—		
" " Gourieff				—		
" " Archangel				—		
Steel—Swedish keg ..per ton				18	5	0
" " Faggot	0	0	0 to	19	0	0
Copper—English sheating..lb.....				0	0	9½
" Old .....per lb.				0	0	8½
" Cake p. ton..	0	0	0 to	88	0	0
" Tile.....	0	0	0—86		0	0
" B. American	0	0	0—77		0	0
Tin—English blocks, &c. cwt.				3	10	0
" " bars ..	0	0	0—	3	12	0
" Foreign, Banca..	3	6	0—	3	7	0
" " Straits..	0	0	0—	3	4	0
" " Peruvian	0	0	0—	3	0	0
Tin plates, No. 1C. p. box	1	4	3—	1	8	0
" No. 1X.	1	10	0—	1	14	0
" wasters 3s. p. box less						
Lead—Sheet milled .....p. ton				17	15	0
" Shot, patent ..	0	0	0—19		15	0
" Red				21	10	0
" White				23	10	0
Pig-Lead—English ..	16	15	0 to	17	0	0
" Spanish ..	0	0	0—16		10	0
" American	16	0	0—	6	15	0

Tenders.

Tenders delivered for building Coach-house and Stables, for Thomas Allen, Esq., of Blackheath.—A. Trimer, Esq., of Adam-street, Architect:—

Whitewood (of Greenwich)	£454 0 0
Clemence (Villiers-street)	453 10 0
Sagden (Bermondsey).....	445 12 0

Opened in the presence of the parties.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For Erecting a new Workhouse at Arctid, near Sandbach, Congleton Union.—Plans, &c., at the Offices of the Clerks of the Union at Congleton, and Mr. Henry Bowman, Architect, 47, Princess-street, Manchester; W. and J. Latham, Clerks. March 9.

For Excavating, Puddling, and Building a Gas Pit, at No. 5, Gas Station, near Gaythorne, Hulme. Plans, &c., at Mr. Shorland's Office, Town-hall, Manchester; T. Wroe, Gas Officer. March 4.

For Erecting a Master's House, Boundary-walls, &c., in connection with St. Peter's National and Sunday Schools, Union-street, Oldham.—Plans, &c., at Messrs. Butterworth and Whitaker, Architects, Cross-street, Manchester. March 7.

For Sewering, Paving, &c., several streets in Chorlton-upon-Medlock.—Plans, &c., at Langtry's, Surveyor, Town-hall, Chorlton-on-Medlock; J. Heron, Town Clerk, 21, Princess-street, Manchester. March 4.

For Erecting and completing Buildings and other Works for Station at Halifax, Manchester, Leeds, and Hull Railway.—Plans, &c., at Engineer's Offices, Palatine-buildings, Manchester. March 11.

Contract for the Erection of a Town House and Outbuildings on the Charity Farm at Thrigby, near Great Yarmouth.—Mr. A. J. Tillett, Architect, King-street, Great Yarmouth. March 11.

Contract for Erecting a School-house at Holloway, Bath.—Mr. G. P. Manners, Bath. March 2.

Contract for Building a Lock-up House at Tonbridge, Kent.—Mr. H. A. Wilder, Maidstone. March 11.

Contract for the Erection of a Chapel, and other additional Buildings for female patients, and other alterations to the Kent County Lunatic Asylum.—Mr. G. Poynder, Clerk, Asylum, Maidstone. March 15.

Contract for Building Sewers in Cursitor-street, Graystock-place, Dean-street, Cook-lane, Sancroft-lane, and other places contiguous.—Mr. Jos. Dew, Sewers Office, Guildhall. March 12.

Contract for the Execution of the several Works necessary to be done in the Re-building of Brent Bridge, and repairing Finchley Bridge, Hendon.—Clerk of the Peace, Sessions House, Clerkenwell-green. March 26.

Contract for Building new Sewers in Portpool-lane, Leather-lane, Woburn-place, and Great Coram-street—Messrs. Stable and Lamb, Hatton-garden. March 8.

Contract for better Paving, Repairing, and keeping in order the Stone-carriage and Footway Pavements of the parish of St. Mary-le-Strand.—Mr. G. Trewhitt, Clerk. March 14.

Contract for supplying her Majesty's several Dock-yards with 2,750 loads of English Elm Timber, and 115 Elm Trees for Pumps.—Secretary of the Admiralty. March 19.

Contract for Building Nine fourth-rate Houses.—Mr. Single, 34, Coleman-street, City. March 11.

Contract for Repairing or New Paving the Footways and Carriage-ways, as the Commissioners may appoint, of the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Westminster, for one year, from Lady-day next.—Mr. J. R. L. Walmsley, Clerk. March 2.

Parish of St. George, Hanover-Square.—Contract for Workmen's Tools and Hammers, Iron Lamp Posts and Gas Fittings, and for keeping in order the garden in Hanover-square, for one year from the 25th March. R. Less, Clerk, Board Room, Mount-street. March 6.

Parish of St. George, Hanover-square.—Contract for Masons' and Paviours' Work, and supply of Guernsey Granite Chippings, and Yorkshire Paving, for one year from the 25th March.—Mr. R. Less, Clerk, Board Room, Mount-street. March 6.

Contract for Removing present Wooden Turret, and erecting a Stone Turret in lieu thereof, with other works, at Preston Hospital, near Wallington, Salop.—Plans, &c., E. Haycock, Esq., Architect, Shrewsbury, or at Mr. Potter's, Bridgman-place, Walsall. March 9, 1844.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received the communications of "C. S.," "Alpha," "L. O. G.," "Censorius," [*who assumes a Latin signature in an English letter swarming with grammatical errors, though on a good subject,*] *and of* "One of the London Beavers."

We have received

"*A History of British Fossil Mammalia and Birds,*" *by Richard Owen, F.R.S., part I.*

"*Geology: Introductory, Descriptive, and Practical, by David Thomas Ansted, M.A., F.R.S., part I.*

"*Illustrations of Baptismal Fonts.*" *Van Voorst. Parts II., III., IV.*

"Ion."—*The work, we are informed, is at present out of print. The price was* 1*l.* 1*s.*

"T. M. C."—*The present price of the work is* 2*l.* 2*s., and is to be obtained at No.* 106, *Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury.*

The fresh communication of "G. R. F." *upon* "*Annulets*" *we have received, and have put in hand its requisite illustrations.*

The article "Echinus," *from* "G. R. F.," *will appear in our next Number, if our engraver complete his work in time.*

"J. L. T."—*The beautiful example of a Welsh font has been received. With the other details of it, we should like to have a plan or horizontal section of its basin.*

We have received "Specimens of Decorations in the Italian Style, Selected from the Designs of Raffaelle in the Vatican Palace at Rome."

We have received the drawings of the Aberdeen Infirmary, *but cannot insert them till we have a description of the building, and the names and purposes of the different wards.*

We have received the drawings of the proposed Hythe Pier, and those for Scrolls and Curtailages, and intend to have them engraved.

Errata.—No. LV., page 95, first column, line 23, for "Cenor" read Cenery.

In page 23, first column, line 51, for *frustrum* read *frustum.*